



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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December 29, 2008

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:   
William T. Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM – ANNUAL REVIEW**

Pursuant to Board Policy No. 3.050, this is to provide your Board with an annual review of the Foreign Consulate Identification Card Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Foreign Consulate Identification Card Program was established to allow County departments to accept a foreign consulate identification card (FCIC) as a form of valid identification. An FCIC is used only for identification purposes. It is not considered proof of legal residence nor does it extend special benefits which would require legal residency to the holder.

On June 11, 2002, your Board authorized the County of Los Angeles to accept the Matricula Consular, an FCIC issued by the Consulate of Mexico, as a form of identification. The FCIC for the Consulate of Argentina was accepted into the Program on August 1, 2003, and the FCIC for the Consulate of Korea on May 19, 2006. The Chief Executive Office has delegated authority to approve acceptance of a consulate's FCIC upon notification to your Board if the FCIC meets the criteria as set forth in the Policy.

### **ANNUAL REVIEW**

All County departments were surveyed to determine which departments were presented with FCICs in the course of their operations. The number of departments that have been presented with FCICs has increased from 13 departments in 2003 to 16 departments in 2008.

The following departments reported that they were not presented with any of the eligible FCICs in 2008: Affirmative Action Compliance, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Alternate Public Defender, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office, Community and Senior Services, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, Fire, Human Relations Commission, Human Resources, Internal Services, Mental Health,

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Military and Veterans Affairs, Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, Ombudsman, Parks and Recreation, Public Defender and Regional Planning.

The attached reflects information on the services, the frequency, and any operational issues reported by the departments presented with one or more of the eligible FCICs.

The following are highlights from the departments' responses:

- **Children and Family Services** – The Department stated that clients with FCICs from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua were rejected by DCFS from being processed through Live Scan because they have not yet met the County's criteria and, accordingly, have not been added to the Program. The Department believes the acceptance of FCICs from other countries should be allowed so that the child's extended family (many of them undocumented) can participate as a resource family, an important aspect of promoting permanence for a child.  
  
(CEO comment: Once these consulates formally apply and meet the County's criteria, they will be added to the Program.)
- **Child Support Services** – The Department was presented with Mexican and Argentinean FCICs for identification purposes in requesting case closure, mistaken identification, interviews, and service of summons and complaints. Over the course of the year, approximately 1,500 Mexican and 24 Argentinean FCICs were presented to the Department.
- **Health Services** – The Department indicated that Mexican FCICs were presented for identification purposes in registration and admission to the Los Angeles County hospitals' inpatient and outpatient services, Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Centers, Comprehensive Health Centers, and Health Centers. Rancho Los Amigos indicated that FCICs were presented as identification in conjunction with 30 percent of their admissions, 20 percent of their outpatient services, and 6 percent of their Medi-Cal applications.
- **Public Health** – The Department has been presented with FCICs, along with other forms of identification, for financial and residential program eligibility. In addition, FCICs have been presented for applications, administrative hearings, and purchasing of birth certificates. The Department does not collect statistics on use of FCICs as a form of identification, but an estimated 80 percent of vital records customers use the FCIC to purchase birth certificates of their children. The Department indicated that they see FCICs from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, as well as voter registration cards from Mexico, but none of these are accepted as valid forms of identification.
- **Public Library** – Mexican, Argentinean, and Korean FCICs have been presented as photo identification to obtain a County Public Library card. Since July 2002, 6,079 library cards were issued to customers using a Mexican FCIC; 1,277 were issued last year and customers with these library cards borrowed 175,507 items last year. Since August of 2003, four library cards were issued to customers using an Argentinean FCIC; two library

cards were issued and 98 items were borrowed last year. Since July 2008, one library card was issued to a customer using a Korean FCIC and no items have been checked out.

- **Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk** – The Department had 11,698 occurrences in which an FCIC has been presented for services, such as obtaining a copy of a vital record and issuance of a marriage license, as well as making a fee payment by personal check for services (e.g., filing a business name statement). The total number of occurrences represents all three consulates, with the highest percentage represented by customers using the Mexican FCIC.
- **Sheriff** – The Department reported FCICs from all three consulates were presented for identification purposes in conjunction with traffic stops, arrests, etc. The Department, however, does not formally track the number of consulate identifications.

The Department believes that, as with most forms of identification, other than California identification cards and driver's licenses (e.g., out of state driver's licenses and FCICs), it is difficult to determine the validity and authenticity of such cards. The Department suggested having access to the consulates' databases by establishing a link to the National Crime Information Center system used by the Department via their mobile digital terminals in their patrol vehicles would assist in determining validity of FCICs. However, the consulates are unable to share access to their database due to issues of foreign policy and confidentiality. The consulates are cooperating with the County and are willing to assist in the verification of an FCIC that may be in question. The estimated response time to any inquiries from the Department would be within 24 hours.

Based on the operational issues identified by departments, this Office will continue to work with the consulates to strengthen the FCIC Program.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may call Martin Zimmerman at (213) 974-1326.

WTF:ES:MKZ  
JR:KLG:pg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads

## 2008 FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD ANNUAL SURVEY

## ATTACHMENT

DEPARTMENT	1. In conjunction with what services or activities were FCICs presented as a form of photo id?	2. What country issued the FCIC?			3. Approximately how many people presented an FCIC in 2008?	4. Has department identified any problems accepting FCICs as a form of photo id?
		MEXICO	ARGENTINA	KOREA		
Animal Care and Control	The adoption and surrender of animals to the animal shelters.	X	X		600	No, only internal problems with tracking and reporting
Assessor	Request for property information.	X			3	No
Child Support Services	The FCICs are presented for identification purposes in request for case closure, mistaken identification, interviews, and service of the summons and complaints.	X	X		1,500	No
Children and Family Services	Live Scan, Special Immigration Status Unit, Adoptions (Home Study Approvals), and Independent Living Program.	X			27 per month	No problems have been experienced in accepting these cards. Please note: if the identification card provided by a client seems altered, the County has discretion to reject the card as invalid. There were clients with FCICs from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua who were rejected by DCFS from going through Live Scan because these cards are not accepted per Boar policy. The use of FCIC should be extended to members of other countries to allow members of a child's extended family (many of them undocumented) to participate as a resource family, an important aspect of promoting permanence for a child.
Community Development Commission	Determining initial and ongoing eligibility, and for ID purposes when conducting interviews or informal hearings	X			Information not tracked.	No
Coroner	To establish identification of decedents and identification of their legal next of kin to conduct business on behalf of the decedent, to include the release of the decedent's personal property.	X			40-50	No

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		MEXICO	ARGENTINA	KOREA		
Health Services	Presented by general patient population for services at Los Angeles County hospitals' inpatient and outpatient services, Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Centesr, Comprehensive Health Centers and Health Centers. FCICs were presented in Registration and Admissions and were used when processing Medi-Cal applications.  Facilities do not keep track of the actual amount of usage of the FCIC.	X	X	X	Estimated use: 30% of the admissions at Rancho Los Amigos, 20% of the outpatient services and 6% of the Medi-Cal applications.	No
Probation	Visiting and release of detained minors. Adult intake, supervision and investigationi process.	X			We do not track, but FCICs are presented very infrequently.	No
Public Health	Potential clients use the FCIC cards, along with other forms of ID, when applying for financial and residential program eligibility; identification for applications and administrative hearings (Environmental Health); customers present these when purchasing birth certifiicates.	X		X	FCICs are presented about twice per week by potential customers; 80% of Vital Records customers use the FCIC card to purchase birth certificates of their children	No
Public Library	Application for library card.	X	X	X	Mexico: 1,277 Argentina: 2 Korea: 1	No
Public Safety, Office of	Identifcation purposes during law enforcement contacts (arrests, traffic stops, victims of crimes).	X			Less than10 times per year.	Determining the authenticity of FCICs.

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		MEXICO	ARGENTINA	KOREA		
Public Social Services	Application process for CalWORKs/Refugee, General Relief, Food Stamps and MediCal benefits. Note: FCICs do not entitle persons to services for which he/she would otherwise be ineligible.	X	X	X	Information not provided.	No
Public Works	Used for identification to visit Land Development Division	X			Information not provided.	No
Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk	Used as a form of identification to obtain a copy of a vital record, issuance of a marriage license. Also used as identification to make a fee payment by personal check for services such as file business name statement.	X	X	X	11,698 FCICs were presented with the prevailing being issued by the Mexican Consulate.	Yes. Clients have presented FCICs that are no longer valid because the expiration date has elapsed. (These cards were not accepted.)
Sheriff	Used as identification during police contact, traffic stops, arrests, etc.	X	X	X	An informal polling of our patrol stations estimated the number to be less than 1,000.	As with most forms of identification other than California ID cards and driver's licenses (e.g., out of state driver's license and Identification, and FCICs), it is difficult to determine the validity and authenticity of such cards.
Treasurer and Tax Collector	Used for immigration clearance letters and identification for Secured Auction.	X		X	Approximately 55 per year.	No